



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: November 15, 2010

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**In the Matter of the Application of Prairie Rose Wind, LLC, for a
Certificate of Need for an up to 101 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System
in Rock and Pipestone Counties**

PUC Docket Number: IP-6838/CN-10-80

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Report (ER) has been completed for the Prairie Rose Wind Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) and High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) proposed for Rock and Pipestone. The ER was prepared for the Certificate of Need (CN) proceeding and addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and project alternatives. Copies of the ER and other relevant documents are accessible at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28286>

Additional Certificate of Need documents can be obtained via the Commission's "eDockets" electronic filing website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> by searching for **year: 10** and **number: 80**.

Paper copies of the Scoping Decision may be requested from the Office of Energy Security (OES) staff listed at the end of this notice.

Project Description

The proposed site is located west of Hardwick and south and east of Jasper in Rock and Pipestone counties. The project is proposed to be constructed in Denver, Rose Dell and Spring Water townships in Rock County and Elmer and Eden townships in Pipestone County. The Project Boundary encompasses approximately 35,335 acres, of which approximately 14,000 acres were under site control at the time of application.

A certificate of need is being requested for an up to 101 MW LWECS, including the following:

1. A wind turbine layout consisting of up to 67 turbines, depending on turbine specifications; the application describes the possible use of General Electric 1.5 MW, Vestas 1.8 MW or Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines;
2. Associated facilities, including gravel access roads, an electrical collection system, permanent meteorological towers, one step-up substation, a Sonic (SODAR) or Light (LIDAR) Detection and Ranging unit and an O&M building.

The project has an associated 24-mile 115 kV transmission system that would connect to the Split Rock Substation near Brandon, South Dakota.

The Applicant's goal is to complete the construction of the project and achieve commercial operation between the third calendar quarter of 2011 and the first calendar quarter of 2012.

PUC Review Process

The Project is a "large energy facility" as defined in Minnesota Statute 216B.2421, subp. 2 and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statute 216B.243. On May 13, 2010, Prairie Rose Wind, LLC, filed a Certificate of Need application for the Project. On July 19, 2010, the PUC issued an Order accepting the application as substantially complete. OES held a public scoping meeting in Jasper on July 27, 2010; and the OES Director released the Scope of the ER on August 23, 2010.

A public hearing on the Certificate of Need will be held shortly after this release of the Environmental Report. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be addressed in the LWECS or HVTL Permit processes.

Project Contacts and Information

For more information about the environmental review process, contact State Permit Manager David Birkholz (651-296-2878, david.birkholz@state.mn.us) or Public Advisor Jamie MacAlister (651-297-1335, jamie.macalister@state.mn.us), Office of Energy Security, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1.800.627.3529 or by dialing 711.